REMARKS

Claims 5-9, 11 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 9, 11 and 12 are amended. Claim 12 is amended only to address antecedent basis issues and not in reply to a substantive rejection and therefore the amendments to claim 12 do not affect patentability. No new matter is added.

I. Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 5-8 and 12. Applicants also appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 10, it being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. As the subject matter of claim 10 is incorporated into independent claim 9, claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 C.F.R. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,354,748 to Vrvilo. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 9, as the allowable subject matter of claim 10 is incorporated into independent claim 9, claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Vrvilo relates to an audio/video conferencing system, the system enabling real time point-to-point audio, video and data conferencing between two PC systems. Each PC system has a conferencing system 100, a camera 102, a microphone 104, a monitor 106, and a speaker 108 (col. 3, lines 51-57). The camera 102 may be any suitable camera for generating an STC or PAL analog video signals (col. 4, lines 6 and 7). The conferencing system 100 comprises a host processor 202, video board 204, audio/comm board tool 6 and ISA bus 208 (col. 4, lines 16-19).

The Office Action alleges that Vrvilo discloses teaching every feature recited in the rejected claims. However, as clearly shown in at least Figs. 1-7, the communication device 100 is not part of the camera 102. Rather, Vrvilo discloses a PC system that includes a conferencing system (computer) connected to a camera 102, a microphone 104 and a monitor 106. The conferencing system is connected to another conferencing system computer via an ISDN network line. The second conferencing system (computer) having similar peripheral components attached to enable audio and visual communication with the first computer. Additionally, in Vrvilo it is the communication devices 100 that are in communication with each other and not the cameras 102. Thus, the camera 102 shown in Vrvilo does not include or comprise a communication device as recited in the claims.

The Office Action further alleges that the "CMDLL" (conference manager) 544 corresponds to the announcing device to announce incoming calls from another communication device recited in the claims. However, as shown in Vrvilo, the conference manager 544 is part of the audio video conferencing application 502 which is included in the conferencing system 100 (computer) and not in the camera 102. The Office Action further alleges that Vrvilo discloses a preventing device, i.e., "procedure to disable all top-level windows when an incoming call is pending", to prevent shooting with the imaging device while the announcing device is announcing the incoming call. In Vrvilo, call notification is controlled by the CMDLL or conferencing manager 544 which is part of the communication device 100 and not part of the camera 102. Accordingly, Vrvilo does not disclose the recited feature.

Additionally, Vrvilo is silent regarding announcing an incoming call by vibration and preventing shooting with the imaging device while the incoming device is announcing the call by vibration. Thus, Vrvilo fails to disclose a camera including each and every feature as recited in the rejected claims. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is requested.

III. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,344,875 to Hashimoto et al.; claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,362,851 to Alvele et al., in view of U.S. Patent 6,441,842 to Fandrianto et al.; and claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable of Alvele. As each of these claims is canceled, the rejection is moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5-9, 11 and 12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted

Mario A. Costantino Registration No. 33,565

John W. Fitzpatrick Registration No. 41,018

MAC:JWF/ldg

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